



Volume 41
Issue 3 September

Article 13

2014

Review of *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*. Leslie Irvine. Reviewed by Tiffany A. Parsons

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Recommended Citation

Parsons, Tiffany (2014) "Review of *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*. Leslie Irvine. Reviewed by Tiffany A. Parsons," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 41 : Iss. 3 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol41/iss3/13>

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of labor activists and, to some extent, powerful business interests, are laid bare in the text. Early is particularly concerned with the role of labor leaders and activists in the decline of the labor movement and in its potential for revival. Yet the story of the past decades is as much one of tragically brilliant business-side strategists as it is of failed labor leadership. Early mentions a number of clever business-side maneuverers—such as Verizon’s success in the early 2000s at slipping out of a CWA-won neutrality agreement, which was supposed to have made new organizing easier and more direct for many workers on the east coast—but a comprehensive effort to ‘save our unions’ would benefit from understanding these efforts in even greater detail.

In short, *Save Our Unions* is a book filled with a diverse array of first-hand and secondary source labor movement analysis that will be of interest both to practitioners and academics, particularly scholars of labor relations and social movements.

Luke Elliott-Negri, Graduate Center,
City University of New York

Leslie Irvine, *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*. Lynne Rienner (2013). \$55.00 (hardcover), 140 pages.

In the United States, the sociological study of homelessness and the homeless has a rich history, beginning with Nels Anderson’s seminal work in the 1920s. In the 1980s, we saw a resurgence of interest in the topic as homelessness became a recognized social problem for the first time and again during our latest recession in the late 2000s. There has always been, however, a lack of research on the specific subpopulation of the homeless who have animals. Leslie Irvine, sociologist and self-proclaimed humaniac, addresses this important subpopulation in her book, *My Dog Always Eats First: Homeless People and Their Animals*.

Irvine collected stories from homeless persons with animals in four locations across the nation. From that experience she developed a typology of homeless persons with animals roughly based on Snow and Anderson’s (1993)

typology. The book dispels common beliefs about how the homeless provide for their animals and reveals the variety of ways in which the homeless resist critiques from the domiciled public. Further, the work contributes to our overall understanding of human–animal relationships and identity work.

She begins the text with a personal encounter that will resonate with many domiciled animal lovers and turns out to be a common experience for homeless persons with companion animals. Her informants shared story after story of the domiciled insinuating, if not outright stating, that homeless persons do not deserve and cannot properly care for an animal. The homeless emphatically disagree and resist these critiques in ways that reassert their personal worth. The name of Irvine's book stems from this very issue and creatively illustrates that many homeless go to great lengths to provide for their animal friends, family members, protectors, life-changers, and lifesavers.

The main body of the book centers around the roles homeless persons assign to their animals and how the stories her informants share about their profound relationships with their animals serve as self-stories revealing the human's worth and goodness. The language the homeless use to assign roles to their animals will not be foreign to the domiciled, but Irvine depicts deeper relationships between her informants and their animals than the ones typically experienced by those in the housed community. Throughout the work, Irvine exposes how through the personal stories about caring for their animals and their animals' loyalty to and love for them, the tellers also construct positive identities for themselves as good and deserving.

Beyond the contribution to our knowledge about this hidden population, a strength of this book is its implications for research and policy and, in particular, Irvine's suggestions for changes in housing policy. Animal welfare and homeless advocates have long noted the need for pet-friendly housing, and Irvine suggests a reachable goal of developing research-based techniques to assess an animal's fitness for a property rather than instituting a sweeping no pets policy. A weakness of the work is its lack of actionable steps that regular folk can take to help this population or affect change.

Whether or not one is familiar with sociology, the book

is an easy read for anyone interested in the topic. As well as giving the reader access to the voices of a marginalized and hidden population, Irvine provides a thorough review of the relevant literature and key sociological concepts throughout the book. It is useful for homeless and animal welfare practitioners, researchers, students, and as a text in many different sociology courses, including courses on qualitative research, identity, animal-human relationships, as well as homelessness, among others.

Tiffany A. Parsons, University of West Georgia

Peter Bernard Ladkin, Christoph Goeker, and Bernd Sieker (Eds.), *The Fukushima Dai-Ichi Accident*. Lit Verlag (2013). \$59.95 (paperback), 291 pages.

The crisis at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant in Japan, which began in March of 2011 after a major earthquake and tsunami severely damaged the plant, highlights the threats created for societies by the technologies they rely on and raises questions about both how to make and who should make societies' technological decisions. The edited volume under review here explores the Fukushima nuclear accident from the mixed perspectives of system safety engineers and sociologists who study risk and organizations. The book originated from a workshop in Bielefeld, Germany that was held in August 2011 to discuss the accident and what can be learned from it about how societies handle risky technologies and disasters.

Following a short introduction, the first chapter, by Ladkin, a safety engineer who is the lead editor and who spearheaded the workshop, gives an overview of the accident. The second chapter, also by Ladkin, discusses the Fukushima accident in the context of hazard analysis, exploring the extent to which the accident could have been anticipated. The third chapter, by Sieker, also an engineer, discusses the physics of nuclear power plants and what happened in the Fukushima plant. These first three chapters present the technical side of the accident and the ways engineers assess and analyze risks and hazards.

Chapters four through nine present comments from a